

No room for Canadian casual this royal holiday weekend

Tips to put a proper spin on your Meghan and Prince Harry wedding party

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If you have an overwhelming desire to trade your beer bottle in for a champagne glass this 2-4 weekend, you're not alone. Turns out, royal wedding viewing parties are quite the thing.

"This is a chance to have fun, and to dine like a prince and princess for the day," says fashion stylist Paul Semkuley, curator of Lip Service Napkins.

With Meghan Markle and Prince Harry scheduled to exchange vows at England's Windsor Castle at noon (7 a.m. EST) on Saturday, May 19, a breakfast line-up is best.

Beyond knowing exactly where to place the fish fork, Semkuley has some tips to add just the right bit of pomp to your party.

Start the festivities with a champagne toast to the newly

knotted couple. If your budget allows, a nice bottle of Champagne Bollinger is ideal — the first to ever receive the royal stamp of approval.

Pair it with bite-size English breakfast hors d'oeuvres, along the lines of "peanut butter and toast with bacon or shrimp with a little bit of cilantro lime," suggests Semkuley.

Though he didn't know a royal wedding was on the horizon at the time, Semkuley sourced the perfect cocktail napkin last year: a crisp white with a traditional hemp stitch and a gold crown embroidered in the corner.

As a complement, Lip Service Napkins also offers beautifully crafted white linen placemats with a deep yellow scalloped edge, which can be paired with picot edge Irish linen dinner napkins, available in an array of colours.

"If you set up a table and it's

white, there's something fresh about doing a combination of colours, almost like an English garden," says Semkuley, noting that deep purple is always a "royal colour."

When finishing your table, take inspiration from British traditions like the plumes on the gold helmets of the royal cavalry or the fascinators worn by ladies.

Lip Service Napkins offers leather tassel napkin rings in either a silver or gold fringe to give a nod to the cavalry, and large feather napkin rings to mimic the delicate headpieces.

It's all about "incorporating the elements of British royalty into a pretty simple table arrangement," he says.

To keep the day easy-peasy, it's perfectly okay to serve your brunch family-style. But Semkuley wouldn't compromise on cutlery etiquette.

Work from the outside in,

placing forks on the left and knives and soup spoons on the right. Bread cutlery always lays on across the bread plate and dessert cutlery lies across the top of the dinner plate.

"I don't think anyone is going to get their ruler out and start measuring, but I do like the traditional form of eating with the right utensils," he says.

For the final touch, encourage your guests to dress for the event. You might suggest floral dresses for the women and a great sports jacket with a colourful pocket square



Hosting a Meghan and Prince Harry wedding party is a chance to have fun and to dine like a prince and princess for the day, says designer Paul Semkuley.

for the men. In the least, it's the perfect time to break out the fascinators, top hats and bowlers.

"You don't have to be a roy-

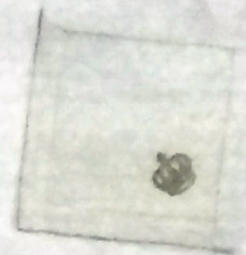
alist to embrace these things," says Semkuley. "It could be any kind of dinner party — these concepts and ideas are just insanely good."



Yellow scalloped edge place mat.



Gold and silver tassel napkin rings.



Gold crown cocktail napkin.

A wedding in white, gold or pink

There's no question that the soon-to-be Dutchess has already influenced the worlds of fashion and home décor with her style and colour choices, and

her good taste is sure to shine through on her wedding day.

As we all eagerly await a glimpse of the dress, flowers and other fabulous details, here's a look at the colour pal-

ette we may see on Saturday, courtesy of Erika Woelfel, colour expert at BEHR Paint.

• White, of course. Perhaps the biggest moment of the day for many eager viewers will be

the moment she steps out of the carriage. White can have a variety of undertones, though, and we're predicting the dress won't be stark white. A colour like Behr's Delicate Lace

is a warm, just-right shade of ivory (our fingers are crossed for lots of lace, too!).

• A golden future. A Welsh gold wedding band is a royal tradition for the ages. A yellow-gold like Bling Bling, in name and colour, reminds us of the precious metal, while the couple's cake choice — a combination of lemon and elderflower — will give guests sunny, floral vibes (think:

Rise and Shine). And, hopefully the sun will be shining bright on the newlyweds.

• Hints of pink. White flowers are a must, but we may also see a few rosy touches in the royal floral arrangements. Peonies come in beautiful, subtle shades like Beloved Pink, and we're loving bolder, purple-tinged foxgloves in a shade like Love Poem.

